Application No. 10/693,163
January 3, 2007
Amendment Responsive to the First Office Action

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1-36 (canceled)

37. (currently amended) A method comprising:

obtaining at least one or more stored images wherein the at least one or more stored images is are stored within an image database, wherein the at least one stored images are is associated with at least one of at least one or more keywords, wherein a multitude of keyword statistics are stored in a database statistics module, and wherein the keyword statistics indicate a probability that one of the at least one keywords and another one of the at least one keywords are both associated with the same one of the at least one stored image;

obtaining an image and comparing the image to the at least one stored images to identify at least one or more similar images wherein image similarity is based on at least two factors, and wherein one of the at least two factors is closeness in time of image acquisition and wherein another one of the at least two factors is determined using a content based image retrieval module;

producing at least two primary keywords based on the at least one keywords associated with the at least one similar images;

determining at least two primary likelihoods associated with the at least two primary keywords based the at least two factors;

using the keyword statistics stored in the database statistics module and the at least two primary likelihoods to determine at least two secondary

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~~likelihoods indicating which of the at least one keyword is likely to occur in association with at least one of the at least two primary keywords;~~

~~producing at least two finer scale keywords based on the at least two secondary likelihoods;~~

<u>producing at least two secondary likelihoods that identify at least two finer scale keywords wherein the secondary likelihoods are based on the keyword statistics and the primary likelihoods such that the finer scale keywords are keywords that are likely to occur in association with at least one of the primary keywords;</u>

presenting the ~~at least two~~ primary keywords ~~and~~ the ~~at least two~~ finer scale keywords, <u>and a new keyword selection</u> to a user ~~wherein an order of presentation is based on the at least two primary likelihoods and the at least two secondary likelihoods;~~

~~presenting a new keyword selection to the user wherein the user can use the new keyword selection to create a new keyword;~~

obtaining ~~at least one~~ <u>or more</u> accepted keyword<u>s</u> from the user wherein the accepted keywords comprise any <u>one of or combination of</u> ~~one of~~ the ~~at least two~~ primary keywords, the ~~at least one new keyword, or the at least two~~ finer scale keywords, <u>and one or more new keywords entered via the new keyword selection</u> ~~can be one of the at least one accepted keyword;~~ ~~and~~

storing the image within the image database and in association with the ~~at least one~~ accepted ~~keywords.~~ <u>keywords; and</u>

<u>updating the keyword statistics wherein the keywords further comprise the accepted keywords.</u>